

**First Congregational Church  
Nantucket, MA  
Interior Repairs, Restoration and Conservation**

**September 12, 2007 Revised October 29, 2008**

**DMH Enterprises, Architects  
104 Federal Street  
Salem, MA 01970  
617-745-2172**

**Donald Mroz, Ph.D.  
Waves of Change Partnership  
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Artwork Conservator  
19 Orne Square  
Salem, MA 01970  
617-745 3364**

**According to the CPC submission of 10/29/2007, the walls and ceilings were decorated in 1970 with trompe l'oeil painting. The submission identified the redecoration as “Major restoration, redecoration of interior with trompe l'oeil, and original ceiling reproduced.” The team was identified as W. Philip Graves, architect, Howard Jellome, contractor, and Artist Walter Sampson, who presumably was the painting contractor. The work was reportedly funded in part by “Nantucket Historical Trust assisted along with others.”**

**The record shows:**

**c.1885 a J. Freeman photo shows the pulpit area painted in a tromp l'oeil manner. (HABS photo)**

**c.1860 - 1880 a J. Freeman photo shows the tromp l'oeil at the opposite end of the sanctuary. The decoration is similar in style to the pulpit area photo by Freeman. (NHA image P6371) (Nantucket Historical Association)**

**c.1935 a photo shows the the pulpit area painted in a tromp l'oeil manner. The decoration is very different from the c.1885 scheme. (NHA image P17963)**

**1966 a photo shows the sanctuary now painted with plain walls and a rather simple geometric decorative treatment of the ceiling. The ceiling itself appears to composed of some sort of square and rectangular shaped panels. (HABS MASS\_10 NANT 26-7)**

**1970 a photo shows the sanctuary now painted with a replication of the c.1885 scheme at the pulpit area, and tromp l'oeil at walls and ceiling. (HABS MASS\_10 NANT 26-13)**

**2008. Howard Jellome confirmed by phone that the ceiling had been covered with new wallboard. He was unsure of the walls; however, examination leads to the supposition that the walls were “wallboarded” as well. Mr. Jellome remembers that the artist, Walter Sampson, was “off island”.**

**2008. A plaque in the Museum Room indicates that the 1970 restoration work team included architects “Fader and Brock”. A search has not found the present location of these architects.**

# TOWER EXHIBIT COMMITTEE

The tower restoration and exhibit were accomplished with  
the help of the following people and organizations:

Virginia Aydelotte  
Reverend Everett Bodge  
Barbara Briard  
Douglas Burch  
Eunice Haskell  
Evelyn Truby  
Eleanor True  
Paul Whitten  
Winifred Wilson

Henry Petzel  
Chairman

**HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND  
RESEARCH MATERIAL**  
Nantucket Historical Association

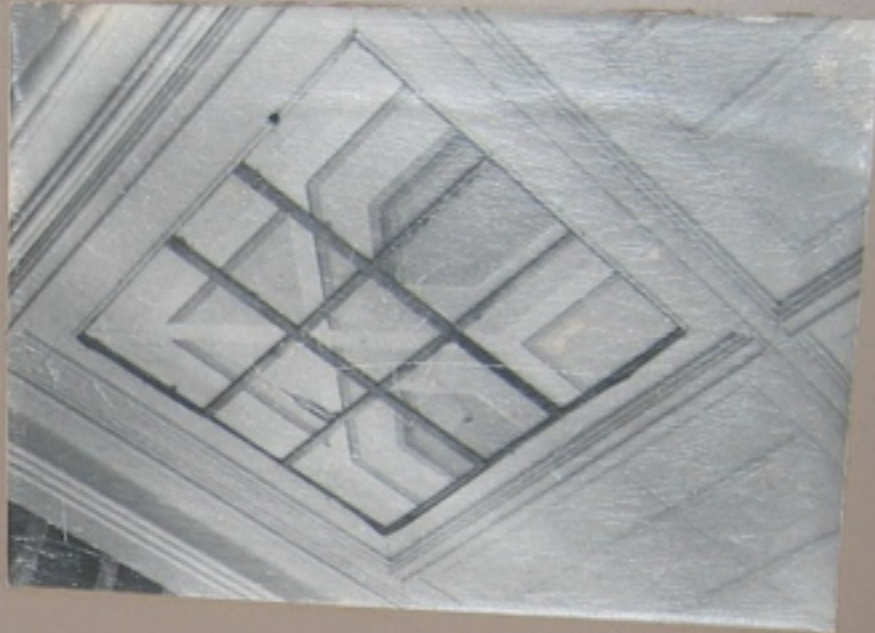
**TOWER RESTORATION AND EXHIBIT  
PREPARATION**  
Nantucket Historical Trust  
Herrick Foundation  
Members of the First Congregational Church  
Fader/Brock Assoc., Architects  
Waterstreet Design Assoc., Exhibit Designers

**Plaque (undated) detailing some of  
the players in the 1970 - 1980  
restoration of presumably the  
sanctuary redecoration as well as the  
tower exhibit.**

r the church,  
gas lights and  
il War volunteers.  
church group in  
e church, with  
\$6,000.00 a year.  
ect helpful but the  
e group create a  
's congregation.



A popular Nantucket cookbook compiled by the Ladies Union Circle.



**TROMPEL'OEIL** is French for deceive the eye. During the redecoration of the church the metal ceiling was removed and this form of three-dimensional painting was revealed. Using early photos and the colors from the ceiling, the church has been restored to its original state. It is the finest example of this style of decoration in southern New England.



**Photo in Plaque (undated) detailing presumably the sanctuary redecoration as well as the tower exhibit. Ceiling photo is unidentified but does show both trompe l'oeil as well as rectangular ceiling panels.**

**Timeline derived from existing research - interior and windows**

			<b>1880</b>	<b>1904</b>			<b>1968</b>	<b>1982</b>		
<b>Summer Church constructed</b>	<b>c.1860</b>		<b>c.1885</b>	<b>c.1900</b>		<b>c.1935</b>	<b>1946</b>	<b>1966</b>	<b>1970</b>	
<b>1834</b>	<b>1850</b>			<b>1900</b>			<b>1950</b>			<b>2000</b> <b>2008</b>
			<b>Tromp l'oeil scheme 1</b>			<b>Tromp l'oeil scheme 2</b>		<b>Tromp l'oeil scheme 3</b>	<b>Tromp l'oeil scheme 4</b>	
			<b>Major restoration and redecoration</b>	<b>Steele organ installed</b>				<b>Major restoration and redecoration, spire reinstalled</b>	<b>Tower renovated, stairs added</b>	
	<b>Photo shows clear glass windows triple hung</b>			<b>Photo shows diamond shaped glass windows</b>			<b>Stained glass windows changed to clear</b>			





**The following pages depict the images available at the HABS (Historic American Buildings Survey) web site, and from the Nantucket Historical Association's web site**

[The Library of Congress](#)



**Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record**



drawings



b&w photos



data pages

(If noted, names of photographers and date of creation are found in the photo caption pages.)













First Congregational Church, 62 Centre Street, Nantucket, Nantucket County, MA

Photographs 1 through 12 of 19

[NEXT GROUP](#)

For a larger reference image, click on the picture or text.

[Back to catalog record](#) | [Built in America Home Page](#)

 <p><a href="#">1. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer July 1966 EAST ELEVATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-1</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">2. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer October 1966 EAST ELEVATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-2</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">3. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer July 1966 NORTH VESTRY AND CHURCH, SOUTHWEST ELEVATIONS HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-3</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">4. Historic American Buildings Survey DETAIL OF SOUTH ELEVATION Jack E. Boucher, Photographer Nov. 1968 HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-4</a></p>
 <p><a href="#">5. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer November 1968 DETAIL, SOUTHEAST CORNER OF CHURCH AND TOWER HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-5</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">6. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 EAST ELEVATION, AFTER RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-6</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">7. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer July 1966 INTERIOR, EAST END, BEFORE RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-7</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">8. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer July 1966 INTERIOR, WEST END, BEFORE RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-8</a></p>
 <p><a href="#">9. Historic American Buildings Survey Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Photographer July 1966 VESTIBULE, BEFORE RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-9</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">10. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING ON WEST WALL HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-10</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">11. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, EAST END, AFTER RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-11</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">12. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING ON CEILING AND WEST WALL HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-12</a></p>

[The Library of Congress](#)



## Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record



drawings



b&w photos



data pages

(If noted, names of photographers and date of creation are found in the photo caption pages.)

First Congregational Church, 62 Centre Street, Nantucket, Nantucket County, MA

Photographs 13 through 19 of 19

[PREV GROUP](#)

*For a larger reference image, click on the picture or text.*

[Back to catalog record](#) | [Built in America Home Page](#)



[13. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-13](#)



[14. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 VESTIBULE, AFTER RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-14](#)



[15. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 VESTIBULE, AFTER RESTORATION HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-15](#)



[16. Historic American Buildings Survey COPY OF STEREOPTICON BY J. FREEMAN, C. 1885, OF WEST WALL WITH ORIGINAL TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-16](#)



[17. Historic American Buildings Survey PHOTOCOPY OF PHOTOGRAPH, c. 1885 HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-17](#)



[18. Historic American Buildings Survey COPY OF STEREOPTICON BY J. FREEMAN, C. 1885. HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-18](#)



[19. Historic American Buildings Survey PHOTOCOPY OF AN UNSIGNED DRAWING OWNED BY THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, c. 1834 HABS MASS.10-NANT.26-19](#)

[Back to catalog record](#) | [Built in America Home Page](#)

Photographs 13 through 19 of 19

[PREV GROUP](#)



1885, Sanctuary, looking west

16. Historic American  
Buildings Survey COPY OF  
STEREOPTICON BY J.  
FREEMAN, C. 1885, OF  
WEST WALL WITH  
ORIGINAL TROMPE  
L'OEIL PAINTING  
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-16



*See a broken link (a box with a red x)?  
Is this database helpful? Please consider supporting our efforts by [becoming a member](#).*

**Photo Collection**  
[54 - Daintry Jensen Collection](#)

**Image Number**  
PH54-50

**Location**  
Photocollections

**Process**  
Negative

**Format or Mount**  
Glass

**Negative**  
Glass plate negative

**Date**  
1860s (circa)  
1870s (circa)

**Nantucket  
Historical  
Association**

**c. 1860's**



Nantucket Historical Association

[See a broken link \(a box with a red x\)?](#)

Is this database helpful? Please consider supporting our efforts by [becoming a member](#)

## Image Number

P6371

### Location

Stereographs

### Other Numbers

43

### Process

Albumen print

### Format or Mount

Stereograph

### Size

3 7/16 x 7 (8.8 x 17.7 cm)

### Photographer or Artist

Freeman, J.

### Date

1860s (circa)

1860s (circa)

### Studio

J. Freeman, Nantucket.

### Notes

Interior view of the choir loft, organ, and clock, draped with bunting of the North Church

Verso inscribed. "Mrs. Bunker. Gay St." and "Susie Bates."

Nantucket  
Historical  
Association

c. 1860's



Nantucket Historical Association

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## Image Number

P6371

### Location

Stereographs



Nantucket Historical Association



Nantucket Historical Association

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 Is this database helpful? Please consider supporting our efforts by [becoming a member](#).

**Image Number**  
**P17963**

**Location**  
 Regular sized P-prints

**Process**  
 Black-and-white photographic print

**Format or Mount**  
 Paper

**Size**  
 6 1/2 x 8 5/8; 16.6 x 21.9 cm

**Photographer or Artist**  
 Unknown

**Date**  
 1935  
 1930s (circa)

**Notes**

**Nantucket  
 Historical  
 Association**

**c.1935**

[See a broken link \(a box with a red x\)?](#)  
 Is this database helpful? Please consider supporting our efforts by [becoming a member](#).

**Image Number**  
**P17963**

**Location**



**7. Historic American  
Buildings Survey Cortlandt V.  
D. Hubbard, Photographer  
July 1966 INTERIOR, EAST  
END, BEFORE  
RESTORATION  
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-7**

**1966, Sanctuary, looking east**

074346pv.jpg



**7. Historic American  
Buildings Survey Cortlandt V.  
D. Hubbard, Photographer  
July 1966 INTERIOR, EAST  
END, BEFORE  
RESTORATION  
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-7**

**1966, Sanctuary, looking west**

074347pu.jpg

MASS-902



**9. Historic American  
Buildings Survey Cortlandt V.  
D. Hubbard, Photographer  
July 1966 VESTIBULE,  
BEFORE RESTORATION  
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-9**

074348pu.jpg

**1966, Vestibule, looking north**



**14. Historic American  
Buildings Survey Jack E.  
Boucher, Photographer  
August 1970 VESTIBULE,  
AFTER RESTORATION  
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-14**

074353pu.jpg

**1970, Vestibule, looking north**



Church records indicate that the interior was painted in the trompe l'oeil manner in 1970, Artist Walter Sampson is recorded in the data and was presumably the artist who painted the interior. The c-1885 stereopticon by J. Freeman looks as if it was used for reference for the west wall.

10. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING ON WEST WALL HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-10

074349pu.jpg

1970, Sanctuary, looking south west



HABS  
NO. MASS-902-

**13. Historic American  
Buildings Survey Jack E.  
Boucher, Photographer  
August 1970 INTERIOR,  
TROMPE L'OEIL  
PAINTING  
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-13**

074352pu.jpg

**1970, Sanctuary, looking south west**



074351pu.jpg

1970, Sanctuary, looking south west

12. Historic American Buildings Survey Jack E. Boucher, Photographer August 1970 INTERIOR, TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING ON CEILING AND WEST WALL HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-12

074355pu.jpg



16. Historic American Buildings Survey COPY OF STEREOPTICON BY J. FREEMAN, C. 1885, OF WEST WALL WITH ORIGINAL TROMPE L'OEIL PAINTING HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-16



**11. Historic American  
Buildings Survey Jack E.  
Boucher, Photographer  
August 1970 INTERIOR,  
EAST END, AFTER  
RESTORATION  
HABS MASS,10-NANT,26-11**

074350pu.jpg

**1970, Sanctuary, looking east**



L1030675

**Photos of existing conditions  
6/5/2008**

L1030676



L1030690

**The central portion of the decoration may be rather early, as it appears to have been painted directly on wooden ceiling boards**



L1030676

**Photos of existing conditions  
6/5/2008**

**The following pages depict existing conditions as of 2007 and 2008 and recommendations for conservation/restoration.**

**Trompe l'oeil to be repainted or conserved, ceiling and walls**

**Appropriate handrails to be added to pulpit area**

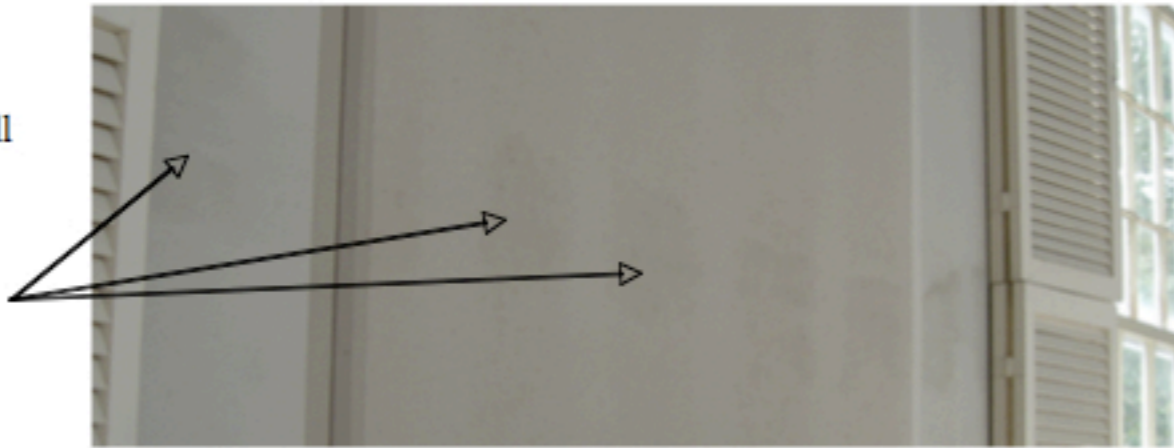


L1030232

**Sanctuary, looking west**

First Congregational Summer Church  
Interior Pictures

Interior Wall  
Mold and  
discolored

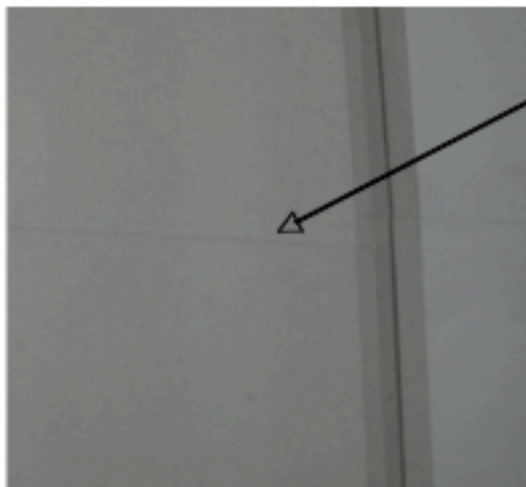


Front  
Inside  
Church



**Detail of walls and decorative trompe l'oeil to be repainted or conserved.**

Interior Cracks and Peeling



Morz091107.003

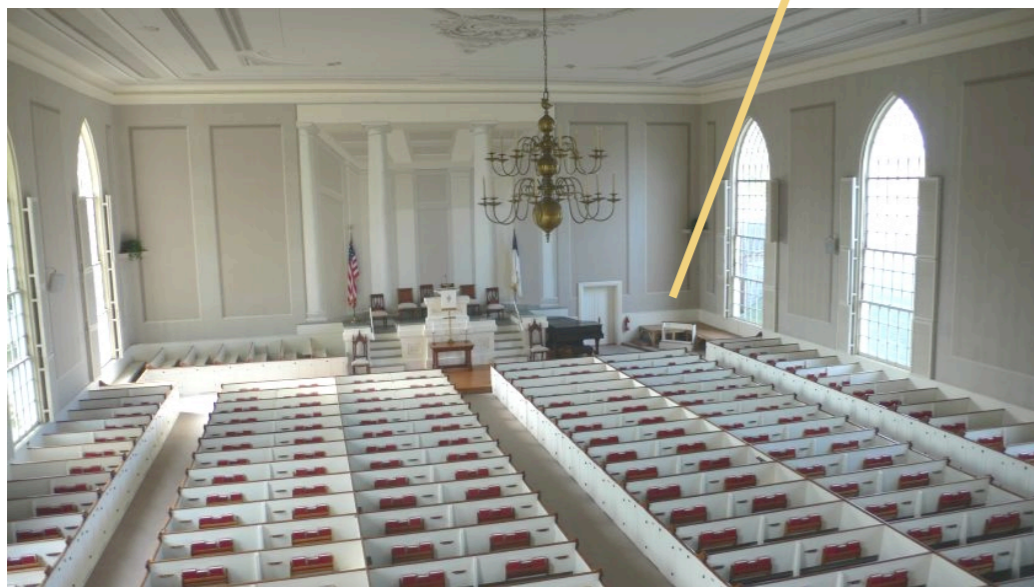


**Cleaning test 6/24/2008  
on trompe l'oeil**

**Typical wallboard tape  
failure**



L1070795



L1030232

L1070796

First Congregational Summer Church  
Interior Pictures



Interior Cracks and Peeling



Mold

**Detail of walls and  
wooden paneling to be  
repainted or conserved.**

Morz091107.002

First Congregational Summer Church  
Interior Pictures  
(Ceiling)



Ceiling behind  
Organ in Summer  
Church



Ceiling cracked and peeling

Window behind Organ facing  
Center Street



**Detail of sanctuary  
plaster rosette and ceiling  
plaster behind organ to  
be repaired.**

Morz091107.001

**Interior of windows to be repaired and repainted**



L1030184

**Sanctuary, looking west**

DSCN0570

**Detail of window sash and frame deterioration at interior of sanctuary to be repaired and repainted. Sash to be repaired, reglazed, lower sash re-roped.**



DSCN0574

**Hardware to be installed that will automatically lock when sash is closed**

DSCN0572

DSCN0573

**Narthex plaster wall and ceilings to be repaired and repainted**



L1030211

**Appropriate panic hardware installed on RH door**

**Narthex, looking east**



L1050475



L1030220

**Two exterior side doors to be repaired and panic hardware installed**

**Exterior, south and north facades**



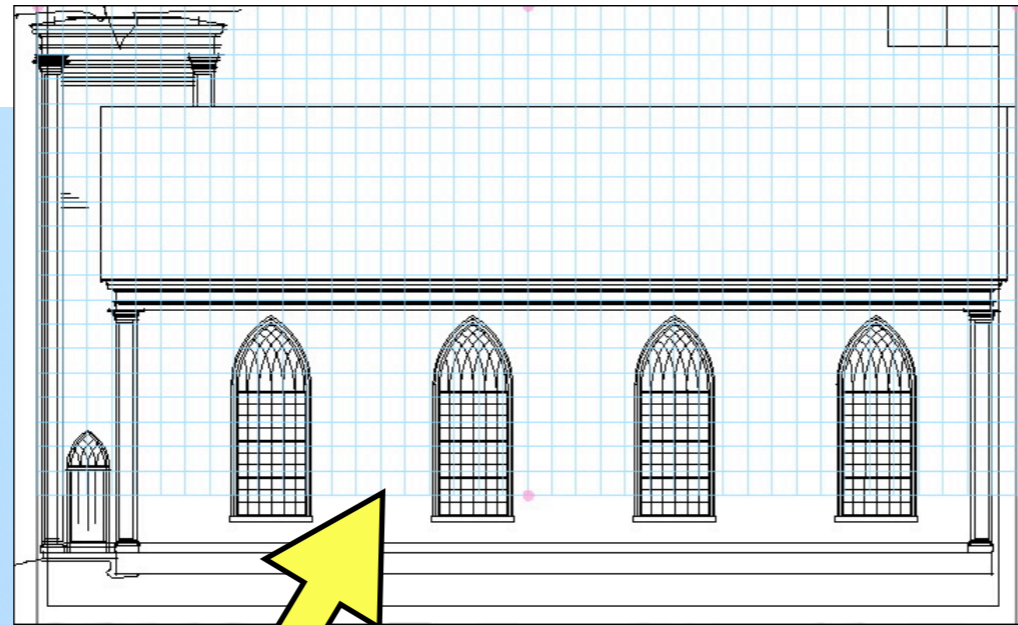
L1030233

**Proper lighting to be installed in stair  
areas of tower where public has access**

**Tower interior, typical**

**The fire detection system previously installed by Greenwood Alarm will be updated and extended to the sanctuary, vestry and tower**

**Exterior repairs.**



**North facade. Replace clapboards with shingles. (Difficult to see as Bennett Hall is obscuring view).**



**South facade. Replace wooden trim and repaint**